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In that connection, the Commissioner is in particular hereby authorized to charge payment of:

- any additional filing fees required under 37 C.F.R. 1.16, and
- any patent application processing fees under 37 C.F.R. 1.17, to Deposit Account No.

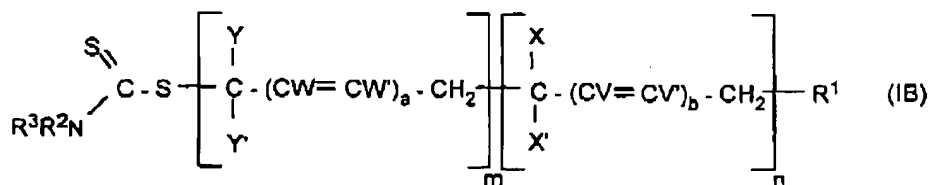
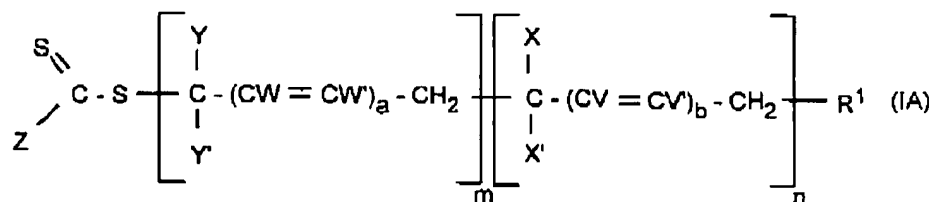
18-1171.

Reconsideration of the outstanding rejection is respectfully requested in light of the following amendment and remarks.

In the claims:

Please amend claim 29 as follows:

29. (Twice amended) A process for preparing block polymers of general formula (IA) or (IB):



in which formulae:

- R^1 represents:

- an optionally substituted alkyl, acyl, aryl, alkene or alkyne group (i),
- an optionally substituted or aromatic, saturated or unsaturated, carbocycle (ii), or

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an optionally substituted or aromatic, saturated or unsaturated, heterocycle (iii),
optionally, these groups and rings (i), (ii) and (iii) are substituted with substituted
phenyl groups, substituted aromatic groups, or groups: alkoxycarbonyl or
aryloxycarbonyl (-COOR), carboxyl (-COOH), acyloxy (-O₂CR), carbamoyl
(-CONR₂), cyano (-CN), alkylcarbonyl, alkylarylcarbonyl, arylcarbonyl,
arylalkylcarbonyl, phthalimido, maleimido, succinimido, amidino, guanidino,
hydroxyl (-OH), amino (-NR₂), halogen, allyl, epoxy, alkoxy (-OR), S-alkyl, S-aryl,
organosilyl, groups having a hydrophilic or ionic character,

R representing an alkyl or aryl group,

C¹
- Z is an optionally substituted ring comprising a nitrogen atom via which Z is linked
to the C(=S)-S- group of formula (IA), the other atoms of said ring inducing a
delocalizing or electron-withdrawing effect with respect to the electron density of the
nitrogen atom,

-R² and R³, which are identical or different, represent:

an optionally substituted alkyl, acyl, aryl, alkene or alkyne group (i),
an optionally substituted or aromatic, saturated or unsaturated, carbocycle (ii), or
an optionally substituted, saturated or unsaturated, heterocycle (iii),
optionally, these groups and rings (i), (ii) and (iii) are substituted with:

- substituted phenyl groups or substituted aromatic groups,
- groups: alkoxycarbonyl or aryloxycarbonyl (-COOR), carboxyl (-COOH),
acyloxy (-O₂CR), carbamoyl (-CONR₂), cyano (-CN), alkylcarbonyl,
alkylarylcarbonyl, arylcarbonyl, arylalkylcarbonyl, phthalimido, maleimido.

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succinimido, amidino, guanidino, hydroxyl (-OH), amino (-NR₂), halogen,
allyl, epoxy, alkoxy (-OR), S-alkyl, S-aryl,
- groups having a hydrophilic or ionic character,

R representing an alkyl or aryl group,

and, for at least R² or R³, these groups and rings (i), (ii) and (iii) induce a delocalizing or electron-withdrawing effect with respect to the electron density of the nitrogen atom to which R² and R³ are linked,

- C
- V, V', W and W', which are identical or different, represent: H, an alkyl group or a halogen,
 - X, X', Y and Y', which are identical or different, represent H, a halogen, a group R', OR', OCOR', NHCOH, OH, NH₂, NHR', N(R')₂, (R')₂N⁺O⁻, NHCOR', CO₂H, CO₂R', CN, CONH₂, CONHR' or CONR'₂, wherein R' is alkyl, aryl, aralkyl, alkaryl, alkene or organosilyl groups, optionally perfluorinated and optionally substituted with one or more carboxyl, epoxy, hydroxyl, alkoxy, amino, halogen or sulphonic groups,
 - a and b, which are identical or different, are equal to 0 or 1,
 - m and n, which are identical or different, are greater than 1, the individual repeat units being identical or different,

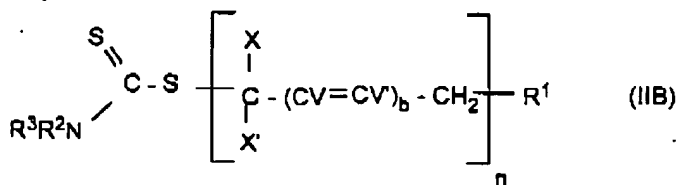
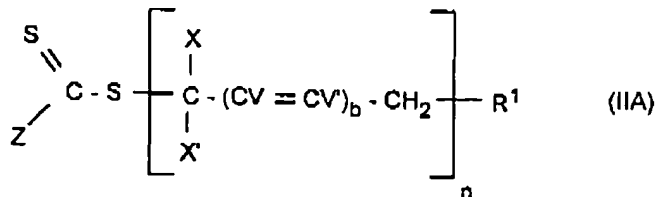
said process comprising the step of bringing into contact with each other:

- an ethylenically unsaturated monomer of formula:



- a precursor compound of general formula (IIA) or (IIB):

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wherein Z, X, X', V, V', R¹, R² and R³ have the same meaning, and b and n the same value, as previously; and

- a radical polymerization initiator compound, and wherein said block polymers have a polydispersity index of at most 2.0.

Please add new claim 54 as follows:

54. (New) A process according to claim 29, wherein the polydispersity index is of at most 1.5.

Marked-up amended claims according to 37 C.F.R. 1.121 are submitted in an attached document. Added matter is shown by underline and deleted matter is shown by strikethrough.

It is asserted that these amendments do not add new matter and are supported by the specification and claims as originally filed. In that connection, Applicant submits that the phrase "a polydispersity index of at most 2.0" finds explicitly, or, in the alternative, at least implicitly support in the phrase: "a polydispersity index of at most